EBDM PROGRAM FOR UNIVERSAL UTILIZATION OF ASSESSMENT TOOLS

The first of seven guiding principles for our EBDM Program is that assessment tools should be utilized to identify risk to re-offend, criminogenic needs and appropriate programming. The two assessment tools we will be utilizing in our EBDM Program are the Proxy and the COMPAS. These instruments will provide useful information in connection with arrest, charging, sentencing and probation supervision decisions.

The specific use of these assessment tools is addressed in the discussion of our other four EBDM Programs. The one point which should be discussed at this juncture is how and why the Proxy will be completed for all individuals potentially subject to criminal arrest in Eau Claire County.

We have agreed that law enforcement officers will complete a Proxy for all individuals who are cited, or in lieu of a citation referred to our Diversion Program, for a matter which could otherwise be criminal. The underlying conduct at issue will typically be Retail Theft, Possession of THC or Disorderly Conduct. Additionally, we have agreed that law enforcement officers will complete a Proxy for all individuals who are the subject of referrals to the District Attorney's Office for possible criminal prosecution. This will include arrested individuals, individuals who are ordered into court in connection with criminal charges and individuals who are the subject of an investigation which could result in the issuance of a summons and complaint or complaint and warrant. In instances in which a Proxy is inadvertently not completed by law enforcement, one will be completed by the diversion coordinator or intake staff in the District Attorney's Office.

Proxy information will be utilized to determine the eligibility of some individuals for our Diversion Program and will be utilized by law enforcement officers making felony custodial arrest decisions. The COMPAS will be utilized by practitioners, judges and probation officers in connection with plea negotiation, sentencing and probation supervision matters. The bottom-line point regarding the purpose of the universal use of these assessment tools is to ensure that relevant decisions within our Criminal Justice System are guided by research-based information.

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